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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP
INTELLIGENCE REPORT

COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)

SUBJECT Miscellaneous Agricultural Information

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SUPPLEMENT

1. An agricultural questionnaire (so-called Betriebsbogen) was recently mailed to all farmers whose property consists of a self-cultivated area of at least 0.5 ha. The information wanted refers to the year 1946/47 and includes questions about property rights, property value, quality of soil, size of property, what and how much is planted, yield, cattle, machines, number of people employed, etc.
2. The SED State Secretariat of the Mark Brandenburg requested the help of the Central Administration and of the other states in the Soviet zone for the reconstruction work in the flooded Oder area. It is planned to use conscripted labor.
3. The Ministry of Supply in Weimar ordered the formation of an Agricultural Research Station whose scientists and farmers are to collaborate with representatives of the SED, the VdGB and the Central Administration in Berlin.
4. The following new areas in the Russian zone are to be converted into farmland:
 - a. Approximately 150 ha. of fallow ground in the Landkreis Guben, to be reclaimed and perhaps used for a new settlement of thirty farms.
 - b. Approximately 160 Morgen of woodland of the former State (Saxe-Weimar) forest near Winkel (D 51) to be used for new settlers.
 - c. 7,000 ha. of woodland in the Mark Brandenburg to be cleared in 1947/48 for pasture.
5. A new farmers' settlement of twenty-six farms is under construction in the outskirts of Hettstedt.

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6. During 1915, 775 forest fires were recorded in the Soviet zone with a loss of 480,929 ha. of woodland.
7. Reports from all parts of the Soviet zone indicate that it will be impossible for the farmers to live up to the cultivation plans because of the lack of seed-grain, seed-potatoes, etc. It was therefore suggested during an SED agricultural conference that the SMA be requested to change its policy by basing the delivery quota not on the cultivation plans, but on the area actually cultivated.
8. On the other hand, the free sale of products in excess of the quotas is now considered unlawful and any farmer selling his surplus on the free market will be prosecuted. Eighty farmers of Gospenroda, Kreis Eisenach, are under sentence for having failed to deliver the full milk quota; in Prenzlau, several farmers were sentenced to three to six months' prison terms for being in arrears with their potato delivery.
9. Records of the Central Administration disclose that an increasing number of new settlers are forsaking their new land. Approximately 1590 cases were reported from the Mark Brandenburg, 1400 from Thuringia, and approximately 800 from Saxony. The lack of suitable living space, equipment, cattle, etc. and the ensuing difficulty in supporting their families is thought to be responsible for the exodus.
10. In connection with the agrarian reform in Thuringia, RM 10,976,000 have been earmarked for credits to new settlers, namely, RM 1,906,000 for farm credits and RM 9,070,000 for construction purposes.
11. The VdgB of the Kreis Zerbst has at present 88 local committees and 3,477 members.

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